

June 2010

# The Green Clan

## Our Water Quality by Viswatej Attili

Want to cut down on wasting water? Then turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth. It will add up to a few gallons per month, and you really don't need to be running the water when not using it. If its hot water, then you can also save on propane.



The fish in the Delaware River have been tested twice in two years, and it has been found that the fish are safe to eat.

Water quality is a term used to describe the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water, usually in respect to its appropriateness for a particular purpose. Although scientific measurements are used to define water quality, it's not a simple thing to say "this water is good," or "this water is bad". Water that is perfectly good for fish in the pond may be very harmful if ingested by human beings.

Assessment of the occurrence of chemicals that can harm water quality, such as

nutrients and pesticides in water resources, requires recognition of complicated relations among surface water and ground water, atmospheric contributions, natural landscape features, human activities, and aquatic health. The vulnerability of surface water and ground water to degradation depends on a combination of natural landscape features, such as geology, topography, and soils, climate, and human activities related to different land uses and land-management practices.

Water quality has become

a very big issue today, partly because of the growth of the population, and our management practices. These put a great stress on our natural water resources, and, if we are not diligent, the quality of our waters will suffer. Growth and development is very important, but, if we don't care for our water now, we might have to pay a lot later. If you have any questions or concerns about water, please feel free to contact Tej, Water Quality Coordinator at (785) 486-2601 ext: 7, or

Viswatej.Attili@ktik-

## Gas Cap and Can Exchange Update by Mike Kelley

I'd like to take a few moments of your time to update you on a couple of the programs that are currently underway.

First is the Gas Can Exchange. This program began on March 1st of this year. The goal of the program is to replace any older, leaky gas cans with a more environmentally friendly (most importantly) brand new gas can at no cost to you. Thus far, the program has exchanged 36

gas cans of various sizes.

Second is the Gas Cap Exchange. This program also began on March 1st of this year. The program's goal is to replace gas caps on vehicles that currently don't have a cap or the cap they have is cracked or faulty. To date, this program has changed or replaced a total of 5 caps.

According to the calculations provided by EPA, over the course of five years, the tribe will be re-

ducing its emissions by about one-third of a ton. For comparisons sake, that is the average CO2 emissions from the monthly electricity usage of 2 homes. That may not seem like much, but it's a good start.

These programs are ongoing. To participate, give me a call or stop by the office to see me, Mike Kelley. Call (785) 486-2601 Ext: 6, or email me at [mike.kelley@ktik-nsn.gov](mailto:mike.kelley@ktik-nsn.gov)

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SMOKING IS A FORM OF  
INDOOR AIR POLLU-  
TION WHICH CREATES  
2ND HAND SMOKE  
THAT EVERYBODY  
BREATHES WHETHER  
THEY SMOKE OR NOT.

**EARTH DAY REPORT**

Earth day was held April 22, 2010, and, as always, it centered on the cleanup of Veteran's Memorial Highway, or K-20. It is the largest adopt-a-highway program in the state of Kansas. It is quite an under-taking of tribal members, tribal employees, and groups from off the reservation such as EPA workers from Kansas City. There has been significant involvement from Golden Eagle Casino these past years, and we appreciate it all. Tee shirts and a good number of trees were given away. Those lacebark elms ought to be gorgeous when they mature.

Last year we gave out 93 safety vests for earth day and only had 44 returned to us. Those vests were free; the new vests cost \$8.95 apiece, so we were concerned about getting them back. We handed out 76 vests, and 75 of them were returned. You understood it was important for us to get the vests back, and you responded beautifully. We, of the Environmental Office, thank you for everything.

Despite the rain, most of us managed to finish and stay dry. The Kickapoo Housing Authority treated us to fine meal, as they had the year before, and we liked our new tee shirts.

**I.H.S. Office of Environmental Health and Engineering in Holton, KS**

SUBMITTED BY JAMISON HONEYCUTT, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICE/PROJECT OFFICER/HOLTON OEH&E FIELD STATION

Within the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEH&E), Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service, there is the Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC).

Under the authority of P.L. 86-121, the Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction is engaged in a program to assist American Indian families with the construction of sanitation facilities, which include water supply and sewage disposal facilities.

In order to become a participant of a sewage or water construction project, participants must complete an application and provide certain sup-

porting documents for review by the Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction.

Participants must be a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe, band, or group and provide documented proof of this membership. Our office will seek sponsorship from one of the local tribes in the Indian Health Service area in which you reside on the participants behalf.

If we can assist you with an environmental health issue or you need assistance in completing application for water supply or sewage

disposal facilities, or if you have questions regarding your eligibility, please contact the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering below:

Holton Office of Environmental Health and Engineering  
Field Station

324 New York Ave  
Holton, KS 66436

Tel: (785) 364-4164